

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman :

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In These Pages

International Work Camps.....1	Bott Memorial Orphanage.....3
Church World Service.....2	AVACO News.....4
Japan Episcopal Church	Japan Christian Leaders
General Convention.....2	in Methodist Conference.....5
Bible Distribution.....3	Mrs. K. Cho to visit Peking....5
Anti Prostitution Bill Supported..3	In Brief.....5

INTERNATIONAL WORK CAMPS

The Youth Department of the National Christian Council has announced plans for two 1956 International Work Camps, which will be conducted July 18 to August 15. In Osaka the clinic and dormitory units of the Christian Social Hall for ex-prisoners, where activities were conducted in 1950 will be repaired and enlarged and a playground for the nursery school will be fenced-in and improved. In Kumamoto, drainage at the National YMCA camp site will be repaired and a road will be constructed. Also the memorial site of the famous Kumamoto Band will be improved. Participants in these camps will include representatives from England, Canada, U.S.A., several East Asian countries and two residents of Truck Island in the Caroline archipelago. All will be university or college students or graduates (men and women) under twenty-eight years of age.

Work camps for high school students have been projected at the Ujiie Church in Tochigi prefecture, where the site for a kindergarten will be prepared. At Handa city in Shizuoka prefecture participants will work on the site for a new church.

Youth Caravans consisting of six to eight young men and women, who operate puppets and Kami Shibai will visit towns and villages in the Boso peninsula and on the shore of Lake Biwa July 18 to August 8.

In Kansai, a labor seminar will be conducted by Mr. M. Takenaka of Doshisha University on labor problems from the Christian point of view. This will include factory work in the daytime and classes in the evening. The Reverend Henry Jones, consultant on occupational evangelism, will assist.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Four major conflagrations have devastated as many communities during the last six weeks and kept Church World Service working over time. In Noshiro, Akita prefecture, where 1,421 houses were destroyed on March 21, a month's supply of butter for 2,400 persons, milk for 1,000 persons and clothing for 3,000 persons were supplied. At Hachinoe city, Aomori prefecture, 516 persons received butter, 333 persons milk and 500 persons received clothing. In Ashihara Fukui prefecture more than two thousand persons were aided, and in Tokiwa, Fukushima prefecture, where 254 homes were destroyed and 1,295 people were made homeless, relief supplies consisted of 15 bales of clothing, 440 pounds of powdered milk and 1,348 pounds of butter. The morning following the fire the Reverend Chutaro Miyajima by utilizing a station wagon of the Japan Bible Society which was in the vicinity was able to open a milk station. Ministers from Fukushima, the prefectural capitol, took responsibility for the distribution. 516 people received butter, 333 milk and 1,500 clothing.

Gratitude for CWS aid has been amply demonstrated. In Fukushima, for example, the Pioneers Federation, composed of 45,000 repatriates and others who are being rehabilitated, recently passed a resolution of appreciation. Also last week the governor of Kanagawa prefecture invited the officers of CWS to attend a special ceremony at which its noteworthy help was acknowledged. CWS has sent 35,000 pounds of butter and milk to the Fukushima Pioneers and on numerous occasions had aided the people of Kanagawa prefecture.

JAPAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH GENERAL CONVENTION

The Episcopal Church at its twenty-fifth General Convention recently decided to hold the next triennial General Convention in Tokyo in 1959 in connection with the centennial celebration. A budget of ¥7 million was approved for the occasion. A memorial room is to be established in the Nagasaki Trinity Church to commemorate its first missionary, Bishop C.M. Williams, who arrived in Nagasaki in 1859. The revised prayer book was approved for temporary use during the next three year period. If satisfactory and approved by the next General Convention, it will be permanently adopted. The Reverend Keitaro Nishimura, was elected chairman of the National Council of the church.

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Recently Bible colporteurs have been unusually successful, according to general secretary Tsunetaro Miyakoda of the Japan Bible Society. In Kyushu a team of eight are covering the territory around the base of Mount Aso which has hitherto been untouched, and two are working in Hirado, a center of early Catholic activity where the church is strong. The colporteurs start out at about eight o'clock each morning and visit fifty to a hundred houses a day. A sale is made at about half of them. The desire for Bibles in Hirado is said to be surprisingly large. In addition to Kyushu, four each are working in Kochi, Tokushima, and Okayama prefectures.

ANTI PROSTITUTION BILL SUPPORTED

The Standing Committee of the National Christian Council recently voted to present a resolution to both houses of the Diet urging passage of the anti-prostitution bill currently under debate. It was also decided to invite Dr. Stanley Jones to conduct a three months campaign from February 1957 as part of the centennial program. (This will be Dr. Jones fifth postwar visit.) Reports were received regarding the Council's resolution against thermo-nuclear weapons and plans for a national protestant rally in 1959 were discussed.

BOTT MEMORIAL ORPHANAGE

The Bott Memorial Orphanage in Setagaya-ku, Tokyo was formally opened at a ceremony on Saturday, April 21, in the presence of the directors and some fifty delegate representing Christian social welfare institutions throughout the country, and representatives of the Christian Children's Fund, which has assisted the project.

The completed unit consists of three identical cottages each designed to accommodate eight to ten children and a house mother, and one larger cottage which includes additional rooms for administration. Thirty-eight children formerly cared for in temporary quarters, first at the Airindan in Nippori and later at the Negishi Kaikan, have been transferred to their new home. An additional units now under construction is expected to be completed sometime this fall. This will provide dormitory space and class rooms for approximately fifteen teachers and nurses from orphanages all over Japan who will come to Tokyo for special training courses and conferences. When the entire project is completed it will probably be the finest orphanage and training center of its kind in Japan.

Originally conceived by friends as a simple memorial to the splendid contribution which Dr. J. E. Bott made to social welfare in Japan, a generous contribution of \$40,000 from the Christian Children Fund has made possible a demonstration-practice center

which will supply a hitherto unmet need in specialized training for workers in orphanages. Mrs. R. Masutomi (43), who is the matron of the Bott Memorial Home, has a long record of devoted service to homeless children.

AVACO NEWS

The AVACO Center announces a seminar on Bach music at the Aoyama Center beginning on May 15 and continuing on the third Tuesday of each month. Following each session there will be a record concert of Bach music at 6 p.m. which will be open to guests. The center's collection of more than a hundred records of Bach's music is believed to be one of the finest in the country. A number of well known musicians and authorities, including Prof. Soichi Ikemiya of St. Paul's University, will participate in the seminar.

AVACO is cooperating with the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the NCCC-USA in the productions of a 16mm documentary on Christianity in Japan and with Missions Visualized, Inc., in producing film strips for mission boards to use in their mission study courses during 1958.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the All Asia Christian Mass Communication will be held at the AVACO Center May 20 - 22.

The film John Wesley with a Japanese soundtrack has been shown in the Osaka-Kobe-Himeji area during the latter part of April.

The first issue of AVACO's bi-monthly magazine has just come off the press. It will contain articles on audio-visual materials, techniques and their use especially aimed at church-related kindergartens. There will also be material for other levels of the church program and two pages for English language readers. Price: ¥50 a copy; ¥250 a year.

AVACO has just released a forty frame film strip in color entitled "The Cross of Shikoku", which includes views of the island, its people and industries, the record of an industrial caravan carried out during the summer of 1955 and the work of pastors, laymen and missionaries on the island.

CHRISTIAN LEADERS FROM KYODAN AT THE METHODIST INTERFIELD
CONFERENCE OF U.S.A.

Japan was ably represented by six Christian leaders from the United Church of Christ in Japan at a Methodist Interfield Conference held this month at St. Simmons Island, Georgia, U.S.A. Prof. Antei Hiyane of Aoyama Gakuin University gave an address on "Japanese Religions and Christianity"; Prof. Takuo Matsumoto, the well known Bible translator, discussed "The Achievements of the United Church"; Mrs. Kazuko Miyaji presented the Home Evangelism program; and Miss Finley spoke on the "Future of the United Church". Under the title of "The Ecclesiastical character of the United Church" the Reverend Takeshi Muto, Moderator of the United Church of Christ in Japan, reviewed the establishment of the church, the newly adopted confession of faith and related problems. Dr. John B. Cobb, veteran Kobe missionary, reported on "Schools and Evangelism."

According to reports the Asian Council on Ecumenical Mission was on the agenda and aroused both heated and tense discussion. Under the auspices of the sub-committee on East Asia Dr. T. T. Brumbaugh and Miss Margaret E. Billingsley arranged a special meeting for the Korean and Japanese delegates. The possibility of an exchange of goodwill missions was discussed but no decisions were reached. Mr. Muto, in writing about the conference stated that it was worthwhile to make the trip for this meeting alone. 130 delegates from thirty-four countries attended the conference.

MRS. KIYOKO CHO TO VISIT PEKING

Mrs. Kiyoko Cho, assistant professor of International Christian University, has been invited to visit Communist China in the near future. The invitation is the outgrowth of discussions in the Commission on International Relations of the United Church of Christ and negotiations on behalf of the Commission conducted by Hon. Tamotsu Hasegawa, a Left-wing Socialist member of the Lower House and chairman of the delegation of Diet members which visited Peking last year. Mr. Hasegawa is a member of the Hamamatsu church and on the denomination's Social Problems Committee. Mrs. Cho will visit China as representative of the United Church of Christ. The report that she would attend the May Day celebrations was an error.

IN BRIEF

The National Christian Education Association is considering a proposal to change its name to the "National Christian School Education Association."

Reverend Bunjiro Mori, who has been Secretary of the General Affairs Department of the United Church of Christ, has become secretary of the Cooperative Evangelism Committee of the Council of Cooperation. Reverend Kunio Oshima, Minister of Kasumigaoka Church in Yokohama, succeeds Mr. Mori.

World has been received by Mr. Kentaro Buma of CWS from Paraguay reporting that a Salvation Army representative in the CAFE plantation area (Mr. Junji Wakai) is going to minister to the spiritual needs of recent Japanese immigrants.

The United Church of Christ in Japan has appropriated ¥3,500,000 (approx \$10,000) for sixty rural churches in order to aid them in their efforts to achieve self support.

Rev. Morinari Watanabe, minister of the Keisen church in Chigasaki, died on April 15. Mr. Watanabe, age 74, will be remembered by many as the genial and devoted minister of the former Kumiai church in Mukden, Manchria.

